Trinity Term Week 4 Open Council Agenda

Business of the President

Reminds everyone of the upcoming Vice-Presidential Election, thanks the outgoing Vice President for her service and for being essential to the creation of the Society.

A number of Standing Order amendments are attached as appendices to this document.

All passed unanimously.

Thanks everyone for their work so far.

Business of the Vice-President

Business of the Treasurer

Business of the Returning Officer

Reiterates reminder about the election.

Business of any Ex Officers

Business of the Director of Operations

Business of the Access and Welfare Officer

Business of the Deputy Treasurer

Business of the Events Officer

Business and Questions of any Ordinary Members

Any Other Business

See next page for amendments.

<u>Amendment 1- at the Ordinary Meeting of Open Council in Week 4 Trinity Term 2024</u>

15th May 2024 - The Shortening of By Election Timelines.

I, Zagham Farhan (University College), *the President* move the following amendment in my name:
{Seconded by Heather Judge (the Queen's College), *the Vice President}*

To change Standing Order 5C from its current form:

<u>C. Resignations and By-Elections</u>

I. In the event of a resignation or removal from office of an elected position, a by-election should be held in the next meeting of the Open Council.
II. Their duties shall be fulfilled by the President in the interim.
III. If this applies to any member of the Executive, a by-election should be held via an Emergency General Meeting to be called by the Returning Officer within two weeks of the Executive Officer vacating their position.
IV. Nominations should open one week before the date of the General Meeting, and should close 48 hours prior to the meeting.
V. Members elected via by- election shall hold office until such time that the original one year term of office comes to an end, or they resign or are removed.
VI. Committee members may announce the date of their resignation in advance, so as to allow time for an election to take place before they withdraw from office.
VII. The winner of any by-election should take office immediately after the count, unless an agreement is reached with the outgoing Committee member to have a set handover period (both parties must be in full agreement). In such a case, the date of power transfer must be submitted to the Returning Officer within one hour of the results announcement.

To read instead as:

<u>C. Resignations and By-Elections</u>

I. In the event of a resignation or removal from office of an elected position, a by-election should be held in the next meeting of the Open Council.
II. Their duties shall be fulfilled by the President in the interim.
III. Nominations should be open for at least 48 hours, and should close within 24 hours of the election.
IV. If this means the election cannot take place at the next meeting of Open Council, an Extraordinary Meeting shall be called instead, or the Returning Officer may choose to have the election at the next Ordinary meeting.
V. Members elected via by- election shall hold office until such time that the original one year term of office comes to an end, or they resign or are removed.

VI. Committee members may announce the date of their resignation in advance, so as to allow time for an election to take place before they withdraw from office.

VII. The winner of any by-election should take office immediately after the count, unless an agreement is reached with the outgoing Committee member to have a set handover period (both parties must be in full agreement). In such a case, the date of power transfer must be submitted to the Returning Officer within one hour of the results announcement.

This amendment allows for by-elections to happen at a faster pace, thus recognising the necessity of having officers in place. It allows the Returning Officer more discretion to decide on timelines.

ZaghamFarhan,

The President, University College.

<u>Amendment 2- at the Ordinary Meeting of Open Council in Week 4 Trinity Term 2024</u>
15th May 2024 - The Addition of 'None of the Above' to Ballots.

I, Zagham Farhan (University College), *the President*, move the following amendment in my name:
{Seconded by Heather Judge (the Queen's College), *the Vice President*}

To amend Standing Order 5E from its current form:
<u>E. Running of Elections</u>

I. Elections are to be conducted via paper ballot Single Transferable Vote of all members present at the meeting.
II. Each ballot paper shall have each position listed with candidates in alphabetical order by surname.
III. Voters shall rank each candidate they wish to express a preference for with numbers only.
IV. Upon the completion of the voting period, those involved in the count should retire to a separate room to conduct the count.
V. If any candidate meets the quota of 50% of valid votes cast + 1 on first preferences alone, they shall automatically be elected.
VI. If nobody meets the quota on first preferences, the candidate with the least amount of first preferences shall be eliminated, and their preferences redistributed (with the quota changing each time to acknowledge any changes in the total number of votes cast due to a lack of further preferences). This process shall continue until a candidate has met the required quota, and they shall be declared duly elected.

To read as follows instead:
<u>E. Running of Elections</u>

I. Elections are to be conducted via paper ballot Single Transferable Vote of all members present at the meeting.
II. Each ballot paper shall have each position listed with candidates in alphabetical order by surname.
III. 'None of the Above' shall appear as the last candidate on each ballot, and shall be treated as if they are any other candidate for the purposes of the count and election. If 'None of the Above' wins the election, it shall be re-run following by-election procedure as outlined in *Standing Order 5C.*
III. Voters shall rank each candidate they wish to express a preference for with numbers only.
IV. Upon the completion of the voting period, those involved in the count should retire to a separate room to conduct the count.
V. If any candidate meets the quota of 50% of valid votes cast + 1 on first preferences alone, they shall automatically be elected.
VI. If nobody meets the quota on first preferences, the candidate with the least amount of first preferences shall be eliminated, and their preferences redistributed (with the quota changing each time to acknowledge any

changes in the total number of votes cast due to a lack of further preferences). This process shall continue until a candidate has met the required quota, and they shall be declared duly elected.

This amendment to Clause III gives members an option to express dissent at the candidates presented to them, and means no one will ever run truly unopposed.

ZaghamFarhan,

The President, University College.

Amendment 3- at the Ordinary Meeting of Open Council in Week 4 Trinity Term 2024

15th May 2024 - The Ability to Join Meetings Online.

I, Zagham Farhan (University College), *the President*, move the following amendment in my name:
{Seconded by Heather Judge (the Queen's College), *the Vice President*}

To amend Standing Order 9 from its current form:

9. Definitions/Interpretation

I. The Returning Officer is responsible for interpreting the Constitution, though they can be overruled in exceptional circumstances by a simple majority vote of the Emeritus Conclave.

II. A simple majority vote, as referenced in these Standing Orders, is defined as more people voting for than against, or vice-versa of those who are present and eligible to vote, who choose to vote. Abstentions and spoilt ballots should be counted separately, and don't count as votes for or against. Ties may be split by the highest present person as according to the Table of Seniority, unless specified differently elsewhere in these Standing Orders.

III. A two- thirds vote, as referenced in these Standing Orders, is defined as 66.67% of those who are present and eligible to vote, who choose to vote. Abstentions and spoilt ballots should be counted separately, and don't count as votes for or against.

IV. Where the words 'in writing' or similar are used in these Standing Orders, this is taken to mean via letter or email unless explicitly stated otherwise.

To read instead as:

9. Definitions/Interpretation

I. The Returning Officer is responsible for interpreting the Constitution, though they can be overruled in exceptional circumstances by a simple majority vote of the Emeritus Conclave.

II. A simple majority vote, as referenced in these Standing Orders, is defined as more people voting for than against, or vice-versa of those who are present and eligible to vote, who choose to vote. Abstentions and spoilt ballots should be counted separately, and don't count as votes for or against. Ties may be split by the highest present person as according to the Table of Seniority, unless specified differently elsewhere in these Standing Orders.

III. A two- thirds vote, as referenced in these Standing Orders, is defined as 66.67% of those who are present and eligible to vote, who choose to vote. Abstentions and spoilt ballots should be counted separately, and don't count as votes for or against.

IV. Where the words 'in writing' or similar are used in these Standing Orders, this is taken to mean via letter or email unless explicitly stated otherwise.

V. Whenever a member requests, they shall be able to join a meeting via an online method (in so far as is technologically possible). They shall be considered as if they are fully present at the meeting, and

afforded all the relevant rights as such. No member shall be punished or denied right in the event of the failure of technology to allow them to join a meeting. This clause does not apply to voting in elections.

VI. Meetings may also be fully online where necessary, for example over the vacation.

The addition of Clause V allows members greater flexibility to join meetings - which are essential to the running of the Society.

ZaghamFarhan,

The President, University College.

<u>Amendment 4- at the Ordinary Meeting of Open Council in Week 4 Trinity Term 2024</u>

15th May 2024 - The Introduction of Proxy Voting.

I, Zagham Farhan (University College), *the President*, move the following amendment in my name:
{Seconded by Heather Judge (the Queen's College), *the Vice President*}

To amend Standing Order 5E from its current form:

A. <u>The Running of Elections</u>

I. Elections are to be conducted via paper ballot Single Transferable Vote of all members present at the meeting.

II. Each ballot paper shall have each position listed with candidates in alphabetical order by surname.

III. Voters shall rank each candidate they wish to express a preference for with numbers only.

IV. Upon the completion of the voting period, those involved in the count should retire to a separate room to conduct the count.

V. If any candidate meets the quota of 50% of valid votes cast + 1 on first preferences alone, they shall automatically be elected.

VI. If nobody meets the quota on first preferences, the candidate with the least amount of first preferences shall be eliminated, and their preferences redistributed (with the quota changing each time to acknowledge any changes in the total number of votes cast due to a lack of further preferences). This process shall continue until a candidate has met the required quota, and they shall be declared duly elected.

To read instead as follows:

A. <u>The Running of Elections</u>

I. Elections are to be conducted via paper ballot Single Transferable Vote of all members present at the meeting.

II. Each ballot paper shall have each position listed with candidates in alphabetical order by surname.

III. Voters shall rank each candidate they wish to express a preference for with numbers only.

IV. Upon the completion of the voting period, those involved in the count should retire to a separate room to conduct the count.

V. If any candidate meets the quota of 50% of valid votes cast + 1 on first preferences alone, they shall automatically be elected.

VI. If nobody meets the quota on first preferences, the candidate with the least amount of first preferences shall be eliminated, and their preferences redistributed (with the quota changing each time to acknowledge any changes in the total number of votes cast due to a lack of further preferences). This process shall continue until a candidate has met the required quota, and they shall be declared duly elected.

VII. Members may nominate another person to vote on their behalf in elections on the basis of accessibility, with the permission of the Returning Officer gained in advance of the election. The member must get in contact with the Returning Officer themselves, and name their proxy.

This amendment will improve the accessibility of our elections, and recognise the hardship that in person voting may bring.

ZaghamFarhan,

The President, University College.